

## Greetings from 3 Mariposas Montessori

While tourists visiting the north coast of the Dominican Republic see azure water and beaches lined with high-end hotels and restaurants, we at 3 Mariposas Montessori (3MM) see children and families who live in the “shadow” of this affluence. Poverty often leads to a sense of powerlessness, lack of self-confidence, and hopelessness. This hopelessness is reinforced by very limited public resources to help the impoverished climb out of the “hole”. 3MM, using Montessori methodology, provides opportunities for students to realize their potential and grow in independence and self-confidence. 3MM creates an environment of respect for self, others, and the Earth we inhabit. It provides a solid foundation for cognitive growth that prepares students for a lifetime of inquiry and academic success. Peace, self-confidence, respect for self and others, freedom to inquire, and responsibility to self and the larger community are cornerstones of our Montessori classrooms.



*“We, the teachers and parents of 3MM, are making a difference--a difference in how children and their parents are able to grow to be productive, peaceful people who think critically and have hope for the future. I don't think that's too much to dream for.”*

*-Sarah Ludwig-Ross  
Founder/Head of School*



## Our 3MM Family

### Students

Scholarship: 36  
Tuition: 15

### Foreign Staff

Montessorians: 3  
Administration: 1

### Dominican/Haitian Staff

Montessorians: 3  
Classroom Assistants: 4  
Secretary: 1  
Admin. Assistant: 1

## At 3MM, students:



**Develop independence, creativity, critical thinking, and a zest for learning.** laying the foundation for success in school and life; empowering students to be productive individuals who contribute positively to their communities, *lifting them out of poverty.*

**Learn to speak English,** giving them a *real advantage in a tourist-driven economy.*

**Develop a love of books.** Daily story time and a chance to check out books to share at home are offered in 3MM's library, *sparking imagination and curiosity.*



**Learn healthful personal habits in a healthy school setting.** Juli, a volunteer RN, comes weekly to ensure student health and to implement a comprehensive health curriculum, thus *providing a basis of health from which to learn and grow.*

**Relate with children of various socioeconomic levels, cultures, and races,** all playing and learning under one roof, *breaking down racial and class barriers, and promoting understanding and peace.*

**Learn care of and respect for animals.** A rabbit, birds, fish, cat, and dog are part of the 3MM family, providing opportunities to learn about life cycles and animal care, *helping*



*students learn their role in caring for creation.*

**Learn care of and respect for our Earth.**

Food scraps are composted, students help pick up litter daily, and trash is removed, *helping students learn ways of caring for our living spaces, our community, and our world.*



**Experience a continuum of learning:** 3MM has offered Montessori education for toddlers through the age 6 for the last 5 years. In the fall of 2016, 3MM will add an elementary classroom, led by an experienced Montessorian from the US and assisted by a local "Montessorian-in-training". *Children have the opportunity to continue in the Montessori curriculum as they grow.*

**3MM is growing as the students grow!**

## At 3MM, teachers:

**Become Montessori certified**, thus providing local people a way out of poverty, and empowering them to make a difference in their own community. (To date, 3MM has provided for the Montessori certification of 3 local teachers.)

**Grow professionally.** Professional growth is accomplished through observation at other Montessori schools, English classes, mentoring, and continuing high school and university education – all of which is supported by 3MM. Professional staff ensures a quality education for 3MM's students, and a rewarding career path for its teachers.



**Learn effective parenting strategies** 3MM staff teach parents how to encourage their child's learning and

inquiry at home. Staff also model alternative methods of discipline. These interactions with parents enable them to be more nurturing and involved in their children's education.

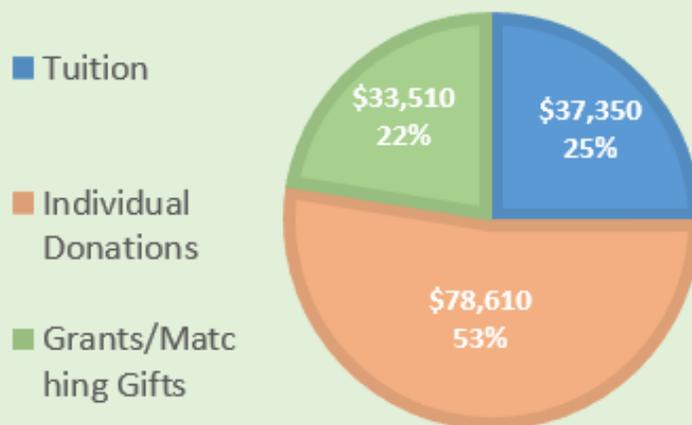
**Obtain the means to provide a safer, healthier home environment.** 3MM's volunteer RN has instructed parents in and provided resources for basic home health (water filters, mosquito netting, first aid kits, etc.), thus ensuring improved child, family, and school health.

**Earn an income** by working at the school's "thrift shop", and by connecting with potential work opportunities through networking, thus raising the standard of living for impoverished parents.

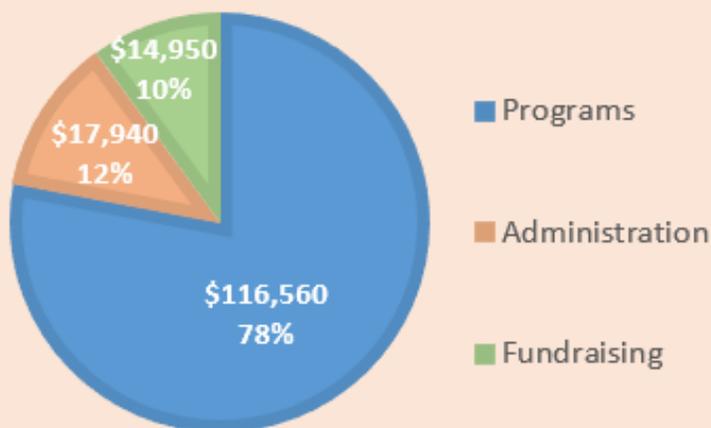
## Summary of Finances

August 1, 2014-July 31, 2015

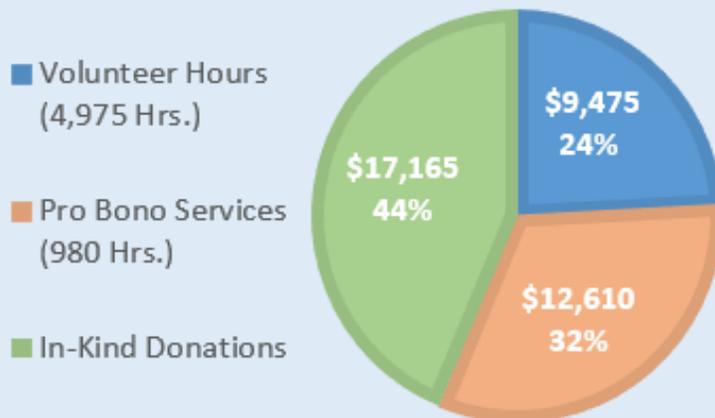
### CASH RECIEPTS



### CASH EXPENSES



### VOLUNTEER/PRO BONO/IN-KIND VALUE



## Bios

**Jenny, Teacher---A story of hard work, a professional certificate, and a job at 3MM.**

“Montessori teaching helps children trust themselves, respect others and helps them to understand from an early age that no matter what their nationality or skin color is, we are all the same on the inside.” A quote from 3MM Montessori teacher, Jenny Martinez Vera. Jenny came to 3MM three years ago as a volunteer, with hopes of learning more about children’s development.

Growing up with seven siblings, Jenny displayed a natural understanding of the needs of children and was soon asked to take the Montessori training. For many Dominican women, a high school education is an insurmountable achievement, yet upon graduation, Jenny knew she wanted even more. Realizing it was a means to achieving her dream, she maintained the same strong work ethic earning her Montessori Teaching certificate (in 2015) as she did at her full time job.

Jenny has worked very hard to earn the confidence and voice necessary for guiding a full classroom of toddlers and her assistants with the grace, and seemingly effortless leadership of someone with a great deal more teaching experience. Our school and the community are better places for this young woman’s dedication and hard work.

**Belkis, Parent---3MM provides parents a hope for their children’s futures.**

Belkis, a busy Dominican mother of three, and a secretary at a local school has been an active member of our community since her youngest son, Gerson, joined us three years ago. She shares the same dream many of us have, that our children study hard and become proud, successful and positive contributors to society.

Belkis was raised in a large family that realized the importance of education and despite their modest income, made sure all of their children received a high school education. Belkis passed these values on to her own children and has found that 3MM provides “an open door and a marvelous opportunity” for Gerson’s academic, behavioral and social development. She also is particularly pleased that her son is learning so much English, a skill she knows will help him thrive in Cabarete’s international community.

Her eldest daughter, Marielis, is a classroom assistant and receives a scholarship through 3MM to attend college. Belkis is thrilled with how much her daughter’s self-confidence and communication skills have improved since beginning her work at 3MM. Belkis told us “her children are the most beautiful and precious things in her life.” We are very thankful to have wonderful families like theirs in our 3MM community.

## Make A Difference



### Donate

**Online:** [3mariposasmontessori.com](http://3mariposasmontessori.com)

OR

**By Check:** payable to  
3 Mariposas Montessori Foundation  
133 N. Villamere Drive  
Dowagiac, MI 49047 USA

3 Mariposas Montessori Foundation is a  
501(c)3 non-profit organization

Our mission is to, alongside parents and teachers, provide children with the foundation for educational success and a happy, healthy life.

1-829-913-8439

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